

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 BIB-01 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 EURE-00 /057 W  
----- 003589

P R 071353Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8454

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, CSCE

SUBJECT: TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

REF: MOSCOW 18615

1. AFTER UK INFORMED US THAT NEW REGULATIONS WOULD BE INTRODUCED FOR BRITISH CORRESPONDENTS "ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY," EMBOFF ATTEMPTED TO REACH MFA/PRESS TO CLARIFY. UNABLE TO CONTACT RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS UNTIL JANUARY 5.

2. SECOND SECRETARY VOZNIKOV, AFTER CHECKING WITH SOFINSKY, SAID EMBOFFS "MISUNDERSTOOD" SOFINSKY ON DECEMBER 31. USSR WOULD NOT TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION, BUT  
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NEW REGULATIONS FOR US CORRESPONDENTS WOULD ALSO BE "ON

THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY."

3. TEXT OF MESSAGE HANDED EMBOFF READS:

QUOTE: FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, ACCREDITED TO THE PRESS SECTION OF THE MFA OF THE USSR, MAY TRAVEL BY ANY MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO REGIONS AND TOWNS OF MOSKOVSAJA OBLAST' OPENED TO FOREIGNERS WITHOUT ANY NOTIFICATION TO THE PRESS SECTION OF THE USSR MFS. TO TRAVEL, BY ANY MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION, TO CITIES AND POPULATED PLACES LOCATED ON ROADS OPEN FOR FOREIGN AUTOTOURISTS, FOREIGN JOURNALISTS ARE TO NOTIFY THE PRESS SECTION OF THE USSR MFA ACCORDING TO THE PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED PROCEDURE 24 HOURS BEFORE THE TRIP, 8 HOURS OF THESE 24 ARE TO COINCIDE WITH A REGULAR WORKING DAY. WRITTEN NOTIFICATIONS OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS' TRIPS TO OTHER CITIES AND REGIONS OF THE USSR, OPEN TO FOREIGNERS, ARE TO BE SENT TO THE USSR MFA PRESS SECTION 48 HOURS PRIOR TO TRIP (THIS TIMES DOES NOT INCLUDE NON-WORKING DAYS) WITH INDICATION OF THE ROUTE, PLACES AND DURATION OF STOPE, AND MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION. WHILE PLANNING THE TRIP, THE PRESS SECTION OF THE USSR MFA REQUESTS JOURNALISTS TO TAKE GUIDANCE FROM THE LIST OF CITIES AND REGIONS OF THE USSR CLOSED TO FOREIGN TRAVEL, RELEASED TO EMBASSIES BY THE MFA OF THE USSR NOTE NO. 60 OF 22 JULY 1966, AND BY THE LIST OF ROADS OPEN FOR FOREIGN AUTOTOURISTS, RELEASED BY MFA NOTE NO. 101 DATED 4 APRIL 1974. THESE CONDITIONS FOR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS TRAVEL WITHIN THE USSR ARE EFFECTIVE FROM 1 MARCH 1976, WITH THE AIM OF FURTHER IMPROVING CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS CARRY OUT THEIR PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES. END QUOTE. ORIGINAL TEXT POUCHED JAN 7.

4. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT OUR REGULATIONS FOR TRAVEL BY SOVIET JOURNALISTS ARE SOMEWHAT MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN THOSE FOR SOVIET DIPLOMATS, IN THAT FORMER DO NOT ENJOY NOTE-FREE TRAVEL AND 24-HOUR NOTIFICATION WHICH WE ACCORDED SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET NOTE OF FEBRUARY 18, 1974. WITH DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL, WE WILL VERBALLY INFORM MFA/PRESS THAT USG IS PREPARED TO RECIPROCATATE BY EXTENDING SAME CONDITIONS TO SOVIET JOURNALISTS AS ARE NOW APPLICABLE TO SOVIET DIPLOMATS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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5. EMBASSY FURTHER SUGGESTS THAT PRIOR TO MARCH 1, NOTE BE SUBMITTED TO MFA PROPOSING FURTHER EASING OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FOR DIPLOMATS, JOURNALISTS, BUSINESSMEN AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE GRANTEEES. DEPT. MIGHT CONSIDER PROPOSING FOR EXAMPLE, REDUCATION IN NUMBER OF CLOSED AREAS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRAVEL CONTROLS, JOURNALISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MOSCOW00177  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760005-0216  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 MOSCOW 18615  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 APR 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN JOURNALISTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, UR, US, CSCE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006